

<b>All Vessels</b>
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**Documentation****#173**

46 CFR 67

**Applies to:** all commercial vessels 5 net tons and greater.**Requirements:**

- A. The **original Certificate of Documentation** must be maintained on board the vessel. Proper Fisheries endorsement. Not expired.
- B. **Name** of the vessel must be -
  - 1. on port & starboard bow and the vessel stern
  - 2. not less than 4 inches in height
  - 3. marked in clearly legible letters.
- C. **Hailing port** of the vessel must be -
  - 1. on stern of the vessel
  - 2. not less than 4 inches in height
  - 3. marked in clearly legible letters.
- D. **Official number** of the vessel must be -
  - 1. permanently affixed to some clearly visible structural part of the hull, such as an internal deck beam
  - 2. not less than 3 inches in height
  - 3. affixed in clearly legible numbers.

**National Documentation Center: 1-800-799-8362**

## All Vessels

### Numbering

**#159**

33 CFR 173

**Applies to:** All **undocumented** commercial fishing industry vessels equipped with propulsion machinery.

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#### **Requirements:**

1. Valid State Certificate of Numbers on board whenever underway.
2. Block numbers on the forward half of the vessel.

#### **Acceptability:**

- A valid State certificate of numbers must be on board while the vessel is underway. A temporary or official duplicate is acceptable.

#### **Display of Numbers:**

- **3 inch BLOCK** - minimum height
- Affixed to forward half of the vessel
- One on each side of the vessel
- Contrasting color to the background
- Permanently affixed
- Read from left to right
- Have a hyphen or a space between prefix, number, and suffix

#### **Tribal Issued State Numbers:**

The state of Washington has permitted some local tribes to issue their own vessel registration numbers. These are identified by the last 3 letters of the vessel's registration being a tribal code.

#### **WN-123-MKH**

All requirements detailed above apply to tribal vessels. Tribal vessels that are 5 net tons and greater must still be documented by the Coast Guard.

## All Vessels

### PFD's/Immersion Suits

#140

46 CFR 28.110, 46 CFR 25.25

**BIG 8**

Criteria	Type Required
<b>All vessels on Coastal Waters or beyond</b>	Immersion or exposure suit.
Vessels $\geq 40$ feet , waters inside coastal	Type I, V, or immersion suit.
Vessel < 40 feet, waters inside coastal	Type I, II, III, V or immersion suit.

#### Acceptability Requirements:

- Immersion suit approval no. 46 CFR 160.171
- Exposure suit approval found in 46 CFR 160.071.
- **Note:** Older non-approved suits are allowed as long as they are in good and serviceable condition.

**Personal Flotation Device (PFD) lights**, CG approval 46 CFR 161.012, must be on PFD's or immersion suits on vessels on coastal waters & beyond. Lights having an expiration date must be unexpired and still serviceable. Off the shelf alkaline batteries must be replaced annually.

#### CHECKLIST:

- ➔ At least one device of the proper size per individual.
- ➔ Each device stowed to be readily accessible.
- ➔ CG approved, and in good and serviceable condition.
- ➔ Operate zippers, clips, etc.
- ➔ PFD Light attached & operational (when required)
- ➔ Marked with vessel name or name of owner or person to whom assigned (Item #145).
- ➔ Retro reflective material; 31sq. inches (#145).
- ➔ PFD Light battery not expired (#146)

## All Vessels

## Ring Life Buoys

#141

46 CFR 28.115, 46 CFR 25.25

VESSEL LENGTH	TYPE REQUIRED
<16 feet	None
16 feet to <26 feet	1 cushion or ring life buoy
26 feet to <65 feet	1 <b>orange</b> ring life buoy, 24 inch in diameter
65 feet or more	3 orange ring life buoys, 24 inch in diameter

At least one ring life buoy must have a line attached.  
 (Vsl less than 65 ft, a line 60 ft or longer)  
 (Vsl 65ft or more, a line 90 ft or longer)

**Commercial LifeSling:** May be substituted for one ring life buoy if:

1. It is the CG Approved model,
2. Vessel has a 10 ft high (above the deck) lifting point, and
3. 150 ft of line attached.

**Acceptability Requirements:**

- Cushions used on vessels 16 to 26 ft must be CG approved type IV.
- Ring life buoys must be CG approved and at least 24 inches on vessels over 26 ft.
- An approved 20 inch or larger ring life buoy installed prior to 15 Sep 91 and in good and serviceable condition, may be used on vessels less than 65 ft in length.

**CHECKLIST:**

- Check for proper type and quantity.
- Each device stowed to be readily accessible.
- CG approved, and in good and serviceable condition.
- Ring Life Buoys marked with vessel's name, retro reflective tape, and line attached.

**Survival Craft**

#142

46 CFR 28.120

**BIG  
8**

**Type Required:** See the tables on the following pages for specifics.

**Acceptability:**

- The **required survival craft is on board.**
- The craft is **good and serviceable**, including having been serviced per the table on page 11 of this Job Aid.
- The craft is **stowed properly.** (See page 8)
- If an inflatable life raft, has the **appropriate pack.** (See page 8)
- The total number of survival craft must be able to **accommodate all individuals on board.**
- An auxiliary craft carried on the vessel which is necessary and integral for normal fishing operations may be substituted for survival craft, **except an inflatable liferaft**, provided it is readily accessible and is capable of carrying all individuals on board.
- An approved lifeboat may be substituted for a survival craft required by section 28.120.

**Survival craft installed prior to 15 Sep 91 may continue to be used provided:**

- Of the same type required in tables 28.120 (a)-(c), as appropriate for the vessel type. (See the following pages.)
- Maintained in good and serviceable condition.
- Equipped with the proper equipment pack required in tables 28.120 (a)-(c), as appropriate for the vessel type.

**CHECKLIST:**

- ➔ Check applicability for survival craft.
- ➔ Check proper type, capacity, equipment pack.
- ➔ Inflatable raft/apparatus serviced within 12 months unless brand new 24 months (if expired, see Termination guidance, p. 52).
- ➔ Check hydrostatic release for proper installation and expiration date (2 yrs from installation) if expired, see Termination guidance, p. 52.

**All Vessels**

**Survival Craft**

**#142**

46 CFR 28.120, Table 46 CFR 28.120(a)

**Documented** Vessels

**Note:** All areas are *cold* waters.

Area	Vessel Type	Survival Craft Required
0-12 miles from coastline	Less than 36 feet in length	Buoyant apparatus. (See Note 2)
0-12 miles from coastline	36 feet or more in length	Inflatable buoyant apparatus. (See Note 3)
12 - 20 miles from coastline	All	Inflatable liferaft
20-50 miles from coastline	All	Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B pack.
>50 miles from coastline	All	Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A pack.

**Note 1:** The hierarchy of survival craft is:

1. Lifeboat
2. Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A or Oceans pack
3. Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B or Limited pack
4. Inflatable liferaft with coastal service pack
5. Inflatable buoyant apparatus
6. Life float
7. Buoyant apparatus

A survival craft higher in the hierarchy may be substituted for any survival craft required in the tables.

**Note 2:** Survival craft not required for a vessel less than 36 feet with 3 or fewer individuals on board while operating within 12nm of coastline.

**Note 3:** A buoyant apparatus may be substituted for a vessel 36 feet or more in length with 3 or fewer individuals on board while operating within 12nm of coastline.

**Type Required:** See the tables on the following pages for specifics.

## All Vessels

### Survival Craft

#142

46 CFR 28.120, Table 46 CFR 28.120(a)

**State Registered** Vessels with 16 or less persons on board.

**Note:** All areas are *cold* waters.

Area	Vessel Type	Survival Craft Required
0-12 miles from coastline	Less than 36 feet in length	Buoyant apparatus. (See Note 2)
0-12 miles from coastline	36 feet or more in length	Buoyant apparatus.
>12 miles from coastline	All	Inflatable buoyant apparatus

**Note 1:** The hierarchy of survival craft is:

1. Lifeboat
2. Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A or Oceans pack
3. Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B or Limited pack
4. Inflatable liferaft with coastal service pack
5. Inflatable buoyant apparatus
6. Life float
7. Buoyant apparatus

A survival craft higher in the hierarchy may be substituted for any survival craft required in the tables.

**Note 2:** Survival craft not required for a vessel less than 36 feet with 3 or fewer individuals on board while operating within 12nm of coastline.

**BIG 8**

**All Vessels**

**Stowage of Survival Craft**  
46 CFR 28.125

**#143**

**Requirement:**

1. Each inflatable liferaft required to be equipped with a **SOLAS A or a SOLAS B, (Oceans or Limited)**, equipment pack must be stowed so as to **float free** and **automatically inflate** in the event the vessel sinks.
2. Each **inflatable liferaft with a coastal service pack, inflatable buoyant apparatus, and any auxiliary craft** used in their place, must be kept **readily accessible** for launching or be stowed so as to float free in the event the vessel sinks.

**Acceptability Requirements:**

- Each hydrostatic release unit used in a float free arrangement must be approved under 46 CFR 160.062.
- Each float free link used with a buoyant apparatus or with a life float must be certified to meet 46 CFR 160.073.

**Note:** A hydrostatic release unit is not required for a proper float free installation. See NVIC 4-86. See placard on raft canister exterior for proper installation.

**Survival Craft Equipment**  
46 CFR 28.130

**#144**

**Requirements:**

- A. Each item of survival equipment must be of good quality and secured to the survival craft.
- B. Inflatable liferaft must be marked with the type of equipment pack inside:
  1. Coastal Service
  2. SOLAS B or Limited Service
  3. SOLAS A or Ocean Service
- C. Life floats or buoyant apparatus must be fitted with:
  1. Lifeline, pendants and painter
  2. Floating electric light approved under 46 CFR 161.010

**Note:** Excess survival craft must meet COMDT (G-MCO) Policy Letter No. 01-96 dated 7 Feb 96. See page 53.



**Lifesaving Equipment Markings**  
 46 CFR 28.135

#145

**BIG 8****Requirements:**

- Block CAPITAL letters must be used to mark all lifesaving equipment.
- Immersion suits and PFD's must be marked with one of the following:
  1. Name of the vessel
  2. Name of owner of the immersion suit or PFD
  3. Name of person assigned to wear the immersion suit or PFD
- Retroreflective markings will be applied as appropriate.

**Table 46 CFR 28.135**  
**Lifesaving Equipment Markings**

Item	Markings Required	Retroreflective Material
Wearable personal flotation device (Type I, II, III, or wearable Type V; Immersion Suit, or exposure suit.	Yes, vessel name or name of owner or person to whom assigned.	Type I or Type II (31 sq. inches on front and on back)
Ring Life Buoy	Yes	Type II on both sides of the device.
Inflatable liferaft	See note	See note
Inflatable buoyant apparatus	See note	See note
Life float	Yes	Type II
Buoyant apparatus	Yes	Type II
Auxiliary craft	Yes	Type II
EPIRB	Yes	Type II

**Note:** No marking other than that provided by the manufacturer and the servicing facility is required.

**All Vessels**

**Lifesaving Equipment Readiness, Maintenance & Inspection of** **#146**  
46 CFR 28.140

<b>Requirements:</b>
The master or individual in charge of a vessel must ensure that each item of lifesaving equipment be in good working order, ready for immediate use and readily accessible before the vessel leaves port and at all times when the vessel is operated.
Except for an inflatable liferaft or an inflatable buoyant apparatus less than two years of age, each item of lifesaving equipment, including unapproved equipment, must be maintained and inspected in accordance with Table 46 CFR 28.140.

An **escape route** from a space where an individual may be employed or an accommodation space must not be obstructed.

**(continued on next page)**

## All Vessels

**Table 46 CFR 28.140** **#146**  
Maintenance & Inspection of Lifesaving Equipment

Item	Interval	Regulation
Inflatable wearable PFD (type V commercial hybrid).	Annual: Servicing	46 CFR 28.140
Immersion suits and PFD's	Annual: Inspect, clean, and repair as necessary	46 CFR 28.140
Buoyant apparatus and life floats	Annual: Inspect, clean, and repair as necessary	46 CFR 28.140
Inflatable liferaft	Annual: Servicing (See Note 1)	46 CFR 28.140
Inflatable buoyant apparatus	Annual: Servicing (See Note 1)	46 CFR 28.140
Hydrostatic release	Annual: Servicing	46 CFR 28.140
Disposable hydrostatic release	Replace on or before expiration date	46 CFR 28.140
Alkaline (Duracell/Energizer) batteries	Annual: Replace	46 CFR 28.140
Dated batteries* (lithium) and other items	Replace on or before expiration date	46 CFR 28.140, 46 CFR 25.26-5
EPIRB	Monthly: Test	46 CFR 25.26-5

\* Water activated batteries must be replaced after use.

**Maintenance and inspection must:**

- be done in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines
- Inflatable liferafts or inflatable buoyant apparatus must be serviced at a facility approved by the CG and by the manufacturer of the survival craft.

**Note 1:** Except new inflatable liferafts or new inflatable buoyant apparatus within two years of the manufacture date.

**BIG 8**

**All Vessels**

**Distress Signals**  
46 CFR 28.145

**#147**

<b>Requirements:</b>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Parachute Flares</b>	<b>Hand Flares</b>	<b>Smoke Signals</b>
<b>Inside of Coastal</b>	None	None	None
<b>Coastal</b>			
Day	3 or	3, or	3 or 1 Distress Flag (See E.)
and			
Night (See D.)	3 or	3 or	1 Electric Distress Signal (See F.)
<b>3-50 miles (See C.)</b>	3, and	6, and	3
<b>&gt;50 miles (See B.)</b>	3, and	6, and	3

See page 53 for what to do with expired flares.

**Acceptability:**

- A. All Flares and signaling **devices must be replaced by their expiration dates.**
- B. Flares required on vessels **operating beyond 50 miles** from the coast must be approved under 46 CFR:
  1. 160.136 (parachute)
  2. 160.121 (hand)
  3. 160.122 (smoke)
- C. Flares required on vessels **operating 3-50 miles** from the coast must be approved under 46 CFR:
  1. 160.136 or 160.036 (parachute)
  2. 160.121 or 160.021 (hand)
  3. 160.122 or 160.022 or 160.037 (smoke)
- D. Any 3 Coast Guard approved flares are acceptable in **coastal waters.**
- E. Distress flag must be in accordance with 46 CFR 160.072.
- F. Electric distress light must be in accordance with 46 CFR 161.013.

## All Vessels

### EPIRB

#148

46 CFR 28.150, 46 CFR 25.26

**Applies to:** All commercial fishing industry vessels operating on the high seas (beyond 3nm of the coastline).

**BIG  
8**

#### Type Required:

- A. Fishing vessels **36 feet or more in length**:
1. A float-free, automatically activated **Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB** unless there is a builder's certification stating the vessel was built with sufficient buoyant material to keep the flooded vessel afloat (see para. B).
- B. Fishing vessels **less than 36 feet in length, or** a fishing vessel 36 feet or more in length having a builder's certification stating the vessel was built with **sufficient buoyant material** to keep the flooded vessel afloat:
1. A float-free, automatically activated **Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB, or**
  2. A manually activated **Category 2 406 MHz EPIRB.**

#### Exemptions:

1. A skiff or workboat does not require an EPIRB if it is stored, when not working, aboard a mother ship equipped with an EPIRB.
2. The District Commander may grant other exemptions.

#### CHECKLIST:

- Cat. I EPIRBs mounted in a float-free location and armed.
- EPIRB battery not expired.
- Hydrostatic release not expired.
- NOAA registration decal not expired.
- EPIRB is tested monthly.

See page 11 for inspection and testing requirements.

**All Vessels**

**Fire Extinguishers**

**#149**

46 CFR 28.155, 46 CFR 28.160, 46 CFR 25.30

Type Required	Without Fixed System in Machinery Space	With Fixed System in Machinery Space
<26 ft in length	1 B-I	0
26 ft to <40 ft	2 B-I	1 B-I
40 ft to <65 ft	3 B-I	2 B-I

**Note:**

1. One B-II replaces two B-I fire extinguishers.
2. Outboard boats less than 26 feet in length are not required to carry fire extinguishers if their construction will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.

**Pre-Engineered** fire system has a bottle (Halon/CO2) and a thermocouple.

**Fixed System** has a bottle (Halon/CO2), fixed piping for distributing the agent and remote actuator.

**Excess fire detection and protection equipment is permitted if:**

- It does not endanger the crew or vessel,
- It is listed and labeled by an independent, national testing laboratory such as UL, FM, etc.
- It is in accordance with appropriate industry standards for design, installation, testing and maintenance.

**CHECKLIST:**

- Sufficient number and type on board.
- Properly mounted in marine bracket.
- UL, USCG, FM approved.
- Pressure gauge in the "Green".
- Must be weighed and tagged annually if the extinguisher does not have a gauge (owner may tag extinguishers himself).

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## All Vessels

### Fire Extinguishers

**#149**

46 CFR 28.155, 46 CFR 28.160, 46 CFR 25.30

#### Portable Fire Extinguishers for Vessels 65 feet (19.8 meters) or more in Length:

**BIG 8**

Space	Class	Quantity/Location
Pilothouse	C-I	<b>2</b> in vicinity of exit.
Safety areas, communicating corridors	A-II	<b>1</b> in each main corridor not more than 150 ft apart. (May be located in stairways)
Accessible baggage & storerooms	A-II	<b>1 for each</b> 2500 sq ft or fraction thereof located in the vicinity of exits, either inside or outside the spaces.
Service spaces, galleys	B-II or C-II	<b>1 for each</b> 2500 sq ft or fraction thereof suitable for hazards involved.
Machinery spaces, internal combustion propelling machinery	B-II	<b>1 for each</b> 1000 brake horsepower or fraction thereof <b>but not less than 2 nor more than 6.</b>
Internal combustion machinery	B-II	<b>1</b> outside the space in the vicinity of exit.
Electric emergency motors or generators	C-II	<b>1</b> outside the space in the vicinity of exit.
Electric propulsion motors or generator unit of open type	C-II	<b>1 for each</b> propulsion motor or generator unit.
Paint lockers	B-II	<b>1</b> outside space in vicinity of exit.
Work shops & similar spaces	A-II	<b>1</b> outside the space in vicinity of exit.
Auxiliary spaces	B-II	<b>1</b> outside the space in the vicinity of exit.

## All Vessels

**Stability/Stability Instructions**

#177

46 CFR 28.65(b)(5), 46 CFR 28.500

**Stability for All Vessels:**

Vessel may not have instability resulting from overloading, improper loading or lack of freeboard. Vessel's voyage may be terminated. A vessel with less than 6" freeboard at amidships may be operating in an especially hazardous condition: Contact nearest MSO.

**Stability Instructions—Applies to:** Each commercial fishing industry vessel which is 79 feet or more in length that is NOT required to be issued a Load Line AND:

1. Has its keel laid or is at a similar stage of construction or undergoes a major conversion started on or after September 15, 1991;
2. Undergoes alterations to the fishing or processing equipment for the purpose of catching, landing, or processing fish in a manner different than has previously been accomplished on the vessel; or
3. Has been substantially altered on or after September 15, 1991.

**Requirement:**

Vessel must have a Stability Book or Stability Information developed by a naval architect or other qualified individual outlining different loading conditions and capacities pertaining to the vessel.

Note the date of this information on the CG-4100S.

If the boarding officer observes any vessel which may be unstable or operating contrary to the Stability Information, then contact the District Commander and local Marine Safety Office **IMMEDIATELY**.